

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 004584
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
/024 R

DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:DKENNEY:JG
APPROVED BY EA/IMS:EINGRAHAM
EA/RA:DSHARRIS

-----101508Z 123951 /53

P 101432Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 004584

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: REPORT TO CONGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN
INDONESIA

REF: JAKARTA 261

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE REVISED SECTIONS B AND C OF THE UN-
CLASSIFIED REPORT TO CONGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA:
QUOTE. 1. PROMOTION OF OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
UNITED STATES OFFICIALS HAVE HAD FREQUENT DISCUSSIONS
WITH INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ABOUT OUR CONCERN
OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN INDONESIA. THE INDO-
NESIANS RECOGNIZE THAT THE DETENTION OF LARGE NUMBERS OF
INDONESIAN CITIZENS WITHOUT TRIAL CONSTITUTES A HUMAN
RIGHTS PROBLEM AND THEY HAVE BEEN WILLING TO DISCUSS
THIS PROBLEM WITH U.S. OFFICIALS. AT THE SAME TIME,
THEY FEEL THEY MUST WEIGH HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS
AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE 1965 ATTEMPTED PRO-COMMUNIST
COUP, AS A SERIOUS INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEM.
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UNITED STATES OFFICIALS HAVE MADE INDONESIAN LEADERS AWARE
OF THOSE SECTIONS OF U.S. LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO HUMAN
RIGHTS AND OF THE OVERALL CONCERN OF THE CONGRESS AND
THE ADMINISTRATION IN THIS REGARD:

(A) IN LATE JUNE AND EARLY JULY 1974 AND AGAIN IN MARCH

1975, THE U.S. AMBASSADOR MET WITH THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER. DURING THESE MEETINGS HE PASSED THE TEXT OF THE NEW U.S. LEGISLATION ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ALSO HELD MEETINGS WITH OTHER SENIOR INDONESIAN OFFICIALS AT WHICH THIS PROBLEM WAS DISCUSSED AND INTERNATIONAL CONCERN ABOUT IT WAS STRESSED.

(B) OUR EMBASSY IN JAKARTA HAS ALSO PROVIDED INFORMATION ON U.N. ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES TO INDONESIAN LEGAL OFFICIALS, FACILITATED HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS WITH THE CONGRESS AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS ALSO FOLLOWED UP ON THESE ACTIONS IN WASHINGTON.

(C) OUR AMBASSADOR MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK AND ATTORNEY GENERAL ALI SAID IN JUNE 1975 AND WITH ADMIRAL SUDOMO IN AUGUST 1975 TO OUTLINE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS IN COUNTRIES WHICH RECEIVE U.S. AID AND TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE VISIT TO INDONESIA BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S SUBCOMMITTEE.

(D) IN JULY 1976 OUR AMBASSADOR SPOKE ON "U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN AN ELECTION YEAR" BEFORE THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF INDONESIA AND POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE AMERICANS WHO REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH A NATION WHICH STILL HAS A NUMBER OF PERSONS DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL. THE SPEECH WAS WIDELY REPORTED IN THE JAKARTA PRESS AND THE COMMENT ON DETAINEES BECAME UNCLASSIFIED

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THE SUBJECT OF AN EDITORIAL.

(E) IN LATE SEPTEMBER AND EARLY OCTOBER THE AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY DELIVERED COPIES OF SECTIONS 301 AND 302A OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT TO KEY OFFICIALS OF THE GOI.

IN ADDITION TO THESE HIGH LEVEL APPROACHES, OUR EMBASSY HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE OTHER EFFORTS TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF THE ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STANDARDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND IN UNOFFICIAL, INFORMAL, CONTACTS. THESE HAVE ENCOMPASSED INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN THE LEGAL, ACADEMIC, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AND POLITICAL FIELDS.

2. DISASSOCIATION OF U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE FROM VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE EMBASSY HAS MADE THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT CLEARLY

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AWARE OF THE PROVISIONS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF THE OVERALL INTEREST OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN THIS REGARD. IN ADDITION, OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS FOCUSED PRINCIPALLY ON PROVIDING INDONESIA WITH A SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITY AGAINST A POSSIBLE EXTERNAL THREAT. THE EMPHASIS OF THE PROGRAM IS ON EQUIPMENT DESIGNED TO HELP PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF INDONESIA AND TO PREVENT INFILTRATION AND SUBVERSION FROM THE OUTSIDE. PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS, MARINE SURVEILLANCE, AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE ALSO HELPED TO REEQUIP CERTAIN UNITS OF THE STRATEGIC RESERVE. U.S. SECURITY PROGRAMS ARE FOCUSED ON PROVIDING BASIC SKILLS, SUCH AS LANGUAGE AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE TRAINING. THERE IS NO LONGER ANY ASSISTANCE TO THE NATIONAL POLICE EXCEPT FOR A SMALL

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ANTINARCOTICS PROGRAM.

C. U.S. INTEREST JUSTIFYING A SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

THE U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS BASED PRIMARILY ON A RECOGNITION OF THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF INDONESIA IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE MAINTENANCE OF AN INDEPENDENT AND FRIENDLY INDONESIA. INDONESIA IS THE LARGEST AND MOST POPULOUS OF THE 10 SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES AND AN IMPORTANT WESTERN TRADING PARTNER. IT IS A POTENTIAL IN THE REGION AND THROUGHOUT THE THIRD WORLD.

FOR A DECADE THE INDONESIA GOVERNMENT HAS CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LARGELY AT THE EXPENSE OF MILITARY PREPAREDNESS. AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGING SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, INDONESIA RECENTLY HAS BECOME CONCERNED ABOUT ITS ANTIQUATED AND POORLY EQUIPPED MILITARY FORCES AND HAS LOOKED PARTICULARLY TO THE UNITED STATES FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING COMMUNICATIONS AND RADAR EQUIPMENT, TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT, AND A MODEST UPGRADING OF COMBAT CAPABILITY. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BELIEVES THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF REGIONAL SECURITY AND CONTINUED GOOD UNITED STATES-INDONESIAN RELATIONS TO TRY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO INDONESIA, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME WHEN IT FEELS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT ITS NATIONAL SECURITY. SPECIFICALLY, THE DEPARTMENT IS OF THE OPINION THAT CONTINUATION OF OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO INDONESIA IS IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST.

2. SECTION A OF NEW UNCLASSIFIED VERSION IS THE SAME AS CLASSIFIED VERSION EARLIER SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO

REQUEST FROM CONGRESSMAN MORGAN WHICH WE BELIEVE YOU
ALREADY HAVE RECEIVED.

3. ADDITIONALLY, THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM ACTING
ASSISTANT SECRETARY JENKINS TO CONGRESSMAN MORGAN
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DATED DECEMBER 15 WAS INCLUDED IN THE UNCLASSIFIED HIRC
REPORT:

QUOTE. DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: YOU WILL RECALL MY LETTER
OF NOVEMBER 11, 1976, TRANSMITTING STATEMENTS ON THE
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING
INDONESIA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION
502B(C)(1) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 AS
AMENDED.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPORT ON INDONESIA, I WOULD LIKE
TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY. AS YOU KNOW,
CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA HAS BEEN FOCUSED
ALMOST ENTIRELY ON THE CONTINUED DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL
OF SOME 30,000 PERSONS WHOM THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES WERE
INVOLVED IN THE ABORTED PRO-COMMUNIST COUP ATTEMPT OF
1965 BUT LACKS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO BRING TO TRIAL.

ON DECEMBER 1, 1976, THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT RELEASED
APPROXIMATELY 2,500 OF THESE PRISONERS AND PERMITTED
THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE
GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A THREE-YEAR PROGRAM FOR THE RELEASE
OF ALL OF THE REMAINING PRISONERS EXCEPT FOR THOSE
(FEWER THAN 1,800) WHOM THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PUT
ON TRIAL. UNDER THE PROGRAM 10,000 PRISONERS ARE SCHEDULED
TO BE RELEASED IN 1977, 10,000 IN 1978 AND THE REMAINDER
IN 1979.

THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT INDICATED THAT CER-
TAIN RESTRICTIONS MIGHT BE PLACED ON SOME OF THE PRISON-
ERS UPON THEIR RELEASE, WITH THOSE FROM JAVA TO BE RE-
SETTLED IN OTHER ISLANDS RATHER THAN BEING PERMITTED
TO RETURN TO OVERCROWDED JAVA.

WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE SITUATION
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CLOSELY AS IT DEVELOPS, WITH DUE ATTENTION TO THE STATUS

OF THE PRISONERS FOLLOWING THEIR RELEASE. UNQUOTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE004584
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DKENNEY:JG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770008-1198
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770166/aaaacftc.tel
Line Count: 226
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2aefb6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JAKARTA 261
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3632039
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT TO CONGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA
TAGS: SHUM, ID
To: JAKARTA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2aefb6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009